

NOTICE TO CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND PROCESSORS

2003 Federal and State Groundfish Management Measures that Affect Fishermen in Federal and State Waters¹ off California

TRAWL FISHERY (Limited Entry² and Open Access)

March - April

LANDINGS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE SPECIES OR SPECIES GROUPS LISTED IN THIS FLYER!

All Bottom Trawling (exception³) Is Prohibited Within The Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

The actual boundaries of the RCA are defined by a series of straight lines between "way points". The coordinates for the way points are available from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS-SEA-03-05). Large and small footrope trawl⁴ may be used *seaward* of the RCA. Only small footrope trawl is permissible *shoreward* of the RCA. Only one type of trawl gear is allowed on board a vessel at any one time if fishing in the RCA. Vessels may transit the RCA with or without groundfish onboard provided the gear is stowed (see federal register for the definition of stowed).

Oregon border to 40° 10' N (Near Cape Mendocino)

The RCA is generally defined as the waters between 100 and 250 fathoms.

40° 10' to 38° N (Point Reyes)

The RCA is generally defined as the waters between 60 and 250 fathoms.

38° to 34° 27' N (Point Conception)

The RCA is generally defined as the waters between 60 and 150 fathoms and inside 150 fathoms around islands.

34° 27' N to Mexico border

The RCA is generally defined as the waters between 100 and 150 fathoms and inside 150 fathoms around islands.

LIMITED ENTRY TRAWL

ROCKFISH

LONGSPINE THORNYHEAD

- 9,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

SHORTSPINE THORNYHEAD

- 2,400 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

MINOR SLOPE

- **North of 38° N:** 1,800 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.
- **South 38° N:** 30,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

SPLITNOSE

- **40° 10' N to 38° N:** 1,800 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.
- **South 38° N:** 30,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH (POP)

- **North of 40° 10' N:** 3,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

Small footrope trawl only

CANARY

- 100 pounds per month.

YELLOWTAIL

- **North of 40° 10' N:** With flatfish no more than 33 % of the flatfish (other than arrowtooth flounder) on board plus an amount equal to 10 % of the arrowtooth not to exceed 3,000 pounds per month. Without flatfish 1,000 pounds per month.

MINOR SHELF, WIDOW and CHILIPEPPER

- 300 pounds per month.

MINOR NEARSHORE

- 300 pounds per month.

FLATFISH

DOVER SOLE

- No more than 26,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

OTHER FLATFISH (including Petrale & rex sole)

- **North of 40° 10' N:** 100,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.
 - ✓ No more than 30,000 pounds of which may be Petrale sole.
- **South of 40° 10' N:** 70,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.
 - ✓ No more than 10,000 pounds of which may be Petrale sole.

ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER

- **North of 40° 10' N:** 60,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period, 7,500 pounds per trip.
- **South of 40° 10' N:** 1,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

ROUND FISH

SABLEFISH

- No more than 6,000 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period.

Small footrope trawl only

LINGCOD

- No more than 800 pounds during the 2-month cumulative period with a 24-inch minimum size limit.

PACIFIC WHITING

- 20,000 pounds per trip (midwater trawl only).

OTHER GROUND FISH

Not limited

OPEN ACCESS TRAWL

PRAWN, CA HALIBUT, AND SEA CUCUMBER (prohibited inside the RCA)

- ❖ 300 pounds groundfish bycatch per trip.
 - Thornyheads: South of 34° 27' N only: 50 pound daily trip limit with a 2-month cumulative limit of 2,000 pounds.
 - Minor Shelf Rock, widow and yellowtail: North of 40° 10' N only: No more than 200 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period.
 - Minor Slope: South of 38° N, 10,000 pounds may be landed during the 2-month cumulative period. North of 38° N, per trip no more than 25% of weight of sablefish landed.
 - Splitnose: South of 40° 10' N: No more than 200 pounds may be landed per month.
 - Flatfish: 3,000 pounds may be landed per month, no more than 300 pounds of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, CA Halibut fishery south of 38° 57' 30"N only: no more than 300 pounds of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, or curlfin sole.
 - Sablefish: North of 36° N, 300 lbs/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 800 lbs, not to exceed 3,200 lbs during the 2-month cumulative period and South of 36° N, 350 lbs/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1050 lbs; no cumulative limit.
 - Lingcod, CA scorpionfish, minor shelf, widow and chilipeper (South of 40° 10' N); and shallow & deep nearshore rockfish: Closed.
 - Other Groundfish (sharks, skates, ratfish, morids, grenadier): Not limited.
- ❖ Pounds of groundfish bycatch landed cannot exceed pounds of target species landed except spiny dogfish landings may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 pound per trip over all groundfish limit. Vessels participation in the CA Halibut fishery south of 38° 57' 30"N (only) are allowed to land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the requirement, provided that at least one CA Halibut is landed.

PINK SHRIMP (April - October) (allowed inside the RCA)

- ❖ 500 pounds groundfish bycatch per day, multiplied by the number of days of the fishing trip, but not to exceed 1,500 pounds per trip.
 - Lingcod: 300 pounds per month, minimum size limit 24 inches.
 - Sablefish: 2,000 pounds per month.
 - Thornyhead, and canary & yelloweye rockfish: Closed.
- ❖ For vessels landing groundfish bycatch in the pink shrimp fishery and also operating in the limited entry or open access fisheries.
 - The vessel may retain the larger of the groundfish limits in effect for that same cumulative limit period, but cannot exceed the limit for each gear or fishery when operating in that fishery or with that gear.
 - The limits are not additive.
- ❖ Pounds of groundfish bycatch landed cannot exceed pounds of pink shrimp

NOTES: 1. California adopts federal groundfish regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 189, Commercial Groundfish Fishing)

2. A vessel with a limited entry permit may fish in the open access fishery using a gear other than the endorsement gear; however, the vessel will be held to limited entry limits even if the open access limit is larger. If the open access limit is smaller than the limited entry limit, the vessel cannot land more than the open access limit using non-endorsed gear; the remainder of the limited entry limit may be taken with the endorsed gear.

3. Pink shrimp trawl may be used in the RCA with excluders.

4. Large footrope (greater than 8" in diameter); Small footrope (8" or less in diameter).

5. The 2-month fishing period are: January-February; March-April; May-June; July-August; September-October; November-December.

6. DTS Complex – Dover sole, longspine and shortspine thornyheads, and trawl caught sablefish.

7. Sablefish trip limits are in round weight equivalent. California allows dressed weight to be reported on landing receipts. If so reported, the receipts must be marked with the code for "dressed head off" (02) in the condition column. The equivalent round weight is computed by multiplying 1.6 times the dressed weight.

8. Groundfish species or species groups for which there is a trip limit, size limit, or OY (optimum yield) must be sorted prior to weighing and the weight reported separately on the Fish and Game receipt.

9. Landing receipts for groundfish must be maintained onboard the vessel during and for 15 days after the end of the cumulative limit period during which the landings occurred (63 FR 34606) (Fish & Game Code 8046.1).

10. Operating in areas with different trip limits. If a vessel takes and retains a groundfish species or species groups; a.) in an area where a more restrictive limit applies before fishing in an area where a more liberal limit or no limit applies; or b.) in an area where a more liberal or no limit applies and takes and retains, possesses or lands that species or species group in an area where a more restrictive limit applies; then the vessel is subject to the more restrictive limit for the period.

11. For a vessel in the "B" platoon, cumulative trip limit period begin on the 16th of the first month of a fishing period and end on the 15th of the first month of the following fishing period.

If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact either:

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For updates check out PFM's web page @ www.pcouncil.org or for NMFS NW Region

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gftest.htm>

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/regulations.html>

California Department of Fish and Game – Marine Region

